Deb. Moore

Writing 1320

April 2, 2012

Writing Center Appointment: April 2, 2012

There is Segregation in Education

When most individuals think segregation they think race, but in this context segregation will be looked at through one’s wealth and the social inequality gaps encountered on a daily basis. The most prevalent social inequalities that individuals in the United States experience are within social classes, race and ethnicity, and gender, with a focus on its relationship to education. One can look around at the different schools within the areas and pick out the lower class schools, the middle class schools, and then the upper level schools; while picking out the schools in the different social classes you can most likely pick out the races that attend these schools as well. Take for example within the Little Rock area; you have Hall High, which is lower class and predominantly African American, Central High, which is middle class and is also a mix of races within the working class, and Little Rock Christian, which is an upper class and private high school which is predominantly white Americans. The educational development that an individual experiences is in their schooling; Brink Lindsey, vice-president of research at the conservative Cato Institute, states that “even if the lack of money isn’t preventing many well-qualified kids from students from matriculating, it could still explain why less-advantaged kids aren’t gaining the abilities that going to college requires” (Lindsey 454). The topic of my research is whether or not segregation still exists in society, with a specific focus on the issue of whether or not the segregation due to one’s socioeconomic status, such as race and ethnicity, social class, and gender, affects the individual’s success and education. My research question to be discussed: Even though the United States is supposed to be integrated, are we still segregated in the education system because of an individual’s race and ethnicity, the social class system one was born into, and one’s gender?

The main reason this issue was discussed is due to the rising failure rates within minorities and lower class families, and also the inequality women receive in education. Being a Sociology major this issue strikes me as the underlying problem to the many issues that we experience living in the United States. Women in today’s societies are not as focused upon in education as men are, then this translates directly in the work force. Women earn 78 cents to every one man dollar, thus clearly showing segregation in pay equity. The higher up in social class one is, the better off one will be. The wealthier individuals are more likely to send their child to a school that will challenge them, get them into prep programs that allow them to be prepared for higher education, and motivate them to choose the correct path in the way of attending college. The lower one is in social class the harder it is to be involved in their child’s life; parents are too busy working to be as involved in their child’s life as they need to be or would like to be, making just enough to pay their bills which doesn’t leave extra money to help get their children into after school prep programs to help prepare and support higher education.

Since these factors contribute to one of the main problems that affect every individual in the United States it is a main problem for Americans; whether it is due to the fact that you are wealthy or poor, male or female, or in the dominant or minority race/ethnicity group, education is key in one’s success. The wealth gap, race gap, and the gender gap that is causing a greater increase in social class inequality also therefore causes a greater gap in education and the success rate that depends on one’s class.

Works Cited

Lindsey, Brink. “Culture of Success” *Writing in the Disciplines: A Reader and Rhetoric for*

*Academic Writers*. Mary Lynch Kennedy and William J. Kennedy. Seventh edition. Saddle

River: 2012. 452-56. Print.